



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**FROM THE DESK OF INDIANA CRIMINAL
JUSTICE INSTITUTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE CUNEGIN**

The holiday season, with its many traditions, family gatherings and overall good feelings, is already upon us. However, many families and individuals around Indiana will go without proper food, shelter, and other necessary items due to a variety of socio-economic factors.

Therefore, the staff of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) and I have chosen to commemorate this time of year by reaching out and lending a hand to our fellow Hoosiers who are often overlooked and underserved particularly during the holiday season.

I am especially proud to be a part of a team who makes the needs of others a priority and the staff of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute does this effortlessly.

For the Thanksgiving holiday, the staff of ICJI and I decided to assist two families from Marion County. Each family of six received one 15 pound turkey complete with a variety of fixings- including an abundance of canned vegetables, fruits, deserts, and dairy products to last each family well beyond Thanksgiving day. The staff of ICJI topped off each gift basket with a \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift card to each family.

In the spirit of the Christmas holiday, the staff of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute decided to expand their generosity and reach outside of Marion County to aid children in need from the Scott County Department of Child Services (DCS). Staff members teamed up to assist more than 20 children ranging in age from newborn to 17 years, and succeeded in meeting both the wants and needs of these very deserving children.

When I walked in and saw a bike that was purchased by several staff members for one child, I have to say that I was not at all surprised. In typical fashion, the staff of ICJI exceeded my expectations and purchased everything from toys, clothes, coats and shoes, to bikes!

I'm sure I speak for the entire staff of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute when I say that we are excited to have so many opportunities to lend our time and talents as we endeavor to foster relationships between the agency and the underappreciated Indiana communities that we choose to serve.

My personal goal is to continue to invest in people so that I can be a small part of helping individuals and communities create their own solutions and seize their own destinies.

Truly,

Michael W. Cunegin II
Executive Director